

Clark County School District
Meeting of the Board of School Trustees
Facilities Services Unit, Building E, Conference Room 606
1180 Military Tribute Place
Henderson, NV 89074

Work Session

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present
Linda P. Cavazos, President
Irene Cepeda, Vice President
Evelyn Garcia Morales, Clerk
Lola Brooks, Member
Danielle Ford, Member
Lisa Guzmán, Member
Katie Williams, Member

Jesus F. Jara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Also present were: Nicole Malich, Board Counsel, District Attorney's Office; Luke Puschnig, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel; Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Nevada; Dr. Debb Oliver, Executive Director, Nevada Association of School Boards; and Lisa Chrapcynski, Administrative Secretary III, Board Office.

Flag Salute

Trustee Cavazos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda

Adopt agenda.

Motion: Williams Second: Garcia Morales Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Elizabeth Hammack asked where the HEPA filtration systems are that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offered to pay for and wondered if they could have helped. She disagreed with CCSD Covid-19 protocols regarding quarantining and said it discriminates between the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (continued)

Kamilah Bywaters said their community is mobilizing around education issues, and she spoke about the positive work that is being done in their community and said they are proposing that they work with CCSD to discuss and implement a Black excellence plan.

John Johnson said the Superintendent's presence shows that he cares about the students. He said the Trustees cannot individually direct the Superintendent but a majority of the Board must agree. He said if they do not like what the Superintendent is doing, they have a process to follow.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – President

Approval on the election of the Office of the President.

Trustee Cavazos reviewed the Board's election process.

Public Hearing

John Johnson spoke about the importance of the officers' positions on the Board. He asked that they choose officers that can lead the Board in the right direction.

Kamilah Bywaters said the community would like to see a Board President who is courageous and will ask critical, important questions that impact students and staff. She said the community is in support of Trustee Guzmán or Trustee Ford as Board President.

Trustee Cavazos stated she is declining any and all nominations at this time.

Trustee Cepeda nominated herself for Office of the President.

Trustee Williams nominated Trustee Garcia Morales for Office of the President.

Trustee Guzmán nominated Trustee Ford for Office of the President.

Trustee Cepeda shared what her priorities would be if elected Board President.

Trustee Garcia Morales said although she is humbled and touched by the nomination, she would respectfully decline at this time.

Trustee Ford stated she was going to nominate Trustee Cavazos for President to serve for a second year. She said she was happy to accept the nomination and would be glad to bring her leadership skills to the Board. She expressed concern regarding the clear split on the Board and brought forward emails from Superintendent Jara to Trustees Cepeda, Garcia Morales, Brooks, and Williams only that containing important information regarding two executive staff members.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – President (continued)

Trustee Ford said they need to stop what she believes is a clear division and favoritism amongst Board members. She said she believes they can work together well with the Superintendent and with each other, but they need to know that the Board officers are not going to be on one side of this split. She spoke about what her role would be as Board President.

Motion to close nominations for Office of the President.

Motion: Brooks Second: Williams Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Guzmán stated that she nominated Trustee Ford because of her decisiveness. She said the Board President needs to be able to make a decision and not waver and be able to voice their concerns outside of the Board.

Trustees submitted their ballots to staff for the Office of the President.

Mrs. Chrapcynski stated the results for Office of the President were for Trustee Cepeda with four votes and three votes for Trustee Ford.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – Vice President

Approval on the election of the Office of the Vice President.

Public Hearing

Kamilah Bywaters said Board Vice President is also a very important position and said the community would like to see Trustee Ford or Trustee Guzmán in that role. She said she is very concerned that there is favoritism and emails not being distributed to all Board members because constituents are being left out as well.

Trustee Cavazos nominated Trustee Ford for Office of the Vice President.

Trustee Cepeda nominated Trustee Garcia Morales for Office of the Vice President.

Motion to close nominations for Office of the Vice President.

Motion: Guzmán Second: Williams Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Ford said she would like to serve as Board Vice President to be part of making decisions that only Board officers are able to make that may benefit the full Board. She said she also wants to ensure that all Trustees are included, and she said she would like to bring her knowledge and experience to the role of Vice President.

Trustee Garcia Morales stated that she takes the role of Vice President very seriously. She said that she would be committed to ensuring focus on student outcomes this upcoming year while supporting President Cepeda. She said she would also be committed to obtaining training for Robert's Rules of Order. She spoke about how she plans to focus moving forward with the work on the functionality of the Board.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – Vice President (continued)

Trustees submitted their ballots to staff for the Office of the Vice President.

Trustee Cavazos expressed concern regarding the emails that Trustee Ford brought forward from Superintendent Jara to only four Board members. She said it is evident that there has been some divisiveness on the Board but said they are looking to move forward in a more cohesive manner. She said that cannot happen if some Trustees are being left out of important communications. She stated she would also be requesting that when a decision is assigned to Board officers, that it take place in an open and public officers' meeting.

Mrs. Chrapcynski stated the results for Office of the Vice President were for Trustee Garcia Morales with five votes and two votes for Trustee Ford.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – Clerk

Approval on the election of the Office of the Clerk.

Public Hearing

Kamilah Bywaters asked that the Board consider electing Trustee Ford or Trustee Guzmán for Board Clerk. She said they hope the Board President and Vice President would ensure that all Trustees are included in communications having to do with the District.

Valerie Wright thanked Trustees for trying to uphold the desires of their constituents. She said although she is not an active teacher at this time, parents call her when their children get into trouble, and she said she is able to help those children. She asked the Board to follow the guidelines that are set forth for the teachers.

Trustee Brooks nominated herself for the Office of the Clerk.

Trustee Ford nominated Trustee Guzmán for the Office of the Clerk. She said she believes Trustee Guzmán would do a great job in the role of Clerk and that she believes Trustee Guzmán would be able to help ensure that the Board is working amicably as a group. She said also she is in support of Trustees gaining experience in the role of a Board officer.

Motion to close nominations for Office of the Clerk.

Motion: Williams Second: Ford Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Brooks said the Board attempted to heal the divide on the Board during the previous election cycle by having a member of the minority faction serve in a leadership role, but she said that was not an effective strategy. She said she feels it is crucial that someone with experience in that capacity serve as an officer and she feels qualified to do so.

Approve Organization of the Board of School Trustees – Clerk (continued)

Trustee Guzmán stated that she accepted the nomination because she feels there is a misunderstanding of the minority faction and that she could be that bridge for the Board, as she is very blunt and straightforward. She said if she is not elected, she would still be blunt and still try to be a bridge.

(Due to technical difficulties, a portion of the meeting was not recorded.)

Trustees submitted their ballots to staff for the Office of the Clerk.

Mrs. Chrapcynski stated the results for Office of the Clerk were for Trustee Brooks with four votes and three votes for Trustee Guzmán.

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of September 23, 2021, the work session of October 6, 2021, and the special meetings of November 4, 2021, and November 15, 2021, as recommended in Reference 3.04.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Guzmán Second: Williams Vote: Unanimous

Voter Outreach Campaign

Information and discussion from the Nevada Secretary of State on impacts and changes to voter and elections processes due to Assembly Bill (AB) 321, AB 121, AB 432, AB 422, and others; improvements to voter and elections integrity; and opportunities for citizen involvement leading up to and during the 2022 election cycle.

Mr. Wlaschin discussed the state's plan for its voter outreach campaign. He offered assistance to CCSD through giving support to teachers and students related to providing information of changes to election laws and voter registration for high school seniors.

Trustee Brooks asked if resources could be provided in writing.

Mr. Wlaschin said he would provide that information to the Board.

Trustee Guzmán asked if the Office of the Secretary of State conducts outreach to high school social studies educators itself or if it is solely through the Board of Trustees and Superintendent.

Mr. Wlaschin said the state is primarily focusing its outreach starting at the school district level instead of reaching out to each of the high schools individually.

Trustee Brooks asked if Mr. Wlaschin was working with a CCSD staff member to move this work forward.

Voter Outreach Campaign (continued)

Mr. Wlaschin said with the Board's permission he could work with the Superintendent or any staff member the Board recommends.

Public Hearing

John Johnson suggested the Board direct Mr. Wlaschin to work with the District's community engagement division.

Anna Binder stated when her daughter obtained her driver license at 16 years of age, she was automatically registered to vote against her family's wishes. She said parents need to be aware that there is an additional step to take to make sure their children are not automatically registered to vote.

Approve Board Training Proposal from the Nevada Association of School Boards

Approval to consider a professional learning proposal from the Nevada Association of School Boards for the purpose of conducting training for the Board of Trustees, as recommended in Reference 3.06.

Public Hearing

John Johnson stated there were some comments made by Board officers during the previous officers meeting related to training stating they have been through training and know the procedures. He asked then if the Board knows the procedures, why are they spending money on training. He said the money being spent for training could be redirected to something more useful.

Trustee Ford discussed the training being proposed by the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB), continuing to work with Dr. Thomas Alsbury, Balanced Governance Solutions, and any overlap in terms of working on governance policies. She asked about the qualifications and experience of the individuals providing the training.

Dr. Oliver stated that the training being proposed by NASB is to enhance the work that the Board has already done. She said it would be Deb Darby-Dudley, Governance Consultant, Nevada Association of School Boards, and herself providing the training and said they both have extensive backgrounds and experience in the area of board governance.

Trustee Brooks stated that the Board has spent a considerable amount of money on training in the last year and said she does not feel the Board has fully completed that process because the Board still does not consistently follow or enforce some of those policies. She said she does not feel this is a good path forward at this time until the new leadership determines what additional training will be required.

Approve Board Training Proposal from the Nevada Association of School Boards (continued)

Trustee Williams commented that she does not think the Board's issue is that they need more training but that their issues are tied to their policy limitations. She stated that the Board's leadership training does not always have to have an education element but that looking at business of first responder leadership training could be beneficial. She said she is not sure this training is the best use of the Board's time or funds since NASB hosts multiple events throughout the year that Trustees can attend.

Trustee Guzmán discussed what she believed the training entailed and how the Board could benefit.

Dr. Oliver offered some clarification about what was being proposed by NASB for the Board and how this type of facilitation is personalized to the needs of this particular Board.

Trustee Garcia Morales discussed what she understands is the difference between policy implementation and facilitation of the team. She said she is concerned with the willingness and desire of each Board member to show up and put forth an honest effort to come together and work as a team.

There was some discussion around the time the Board has already invested in training and what the Trustees hope to accomplish and how they could benefit by taking part in the training and facilitation being proposed by NASB.

Trustee Williams asked if this item could be brought back at another time after the new Board officers are in place, as there may be some changes that affect the Board.

Trustee Cavazos said she believes this is something the Board needs at this time.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Cavazos Second: Cepeda

Trustee Ford stated that she feels if the Board does not approve this at this time, it would just be furthering the dysfunction on the Board. She noted that NASB is connected to the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and said the Board has a responsibility to gain information and to hear from people connected to NSBA. She noted that the cost for this training amounts to just over \$1,000.00 per Trustee for a board that oversees billions of dollars annually.

Trustee Brooks said she does not feel this is happening in the correct order for the Board to be successful. She asked that the Board officers present a timeline. She suggested that the first steps in this process should be setting boundaries and then policies and procedures.

Vote on Trustee Cavazos' motion: Yeses – 6 (Brooks, Cavazos, Cepeda, Ford, Garcia Morales, Guzmán); No – 1 (Williams)

The motion passed.

Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Thursday, January 13, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Trustee Cavazos stated the upcoming meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m., would be held at Valley High School.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Valerie Wright said she would like to see the Board make improvements in the diversity, competence, enrichment, respect, and inclusion in its community planning and implementation. She said she would like to see the Board put student success first.

Elizabeth Hammack noted that children were mentioned once during this meeting and thought they should be discussed more. She said it is clear that the Board has issues and said the Board cannot be trained in integrity and trust.

Kamilah Bywaters stated that the Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators (LVABSE) would like to request meetings with Superintendent Jara; to be placed on Trustee Cepeda's, Trustee Garcia Morales's, and Trustee Brooks's calendars; and to address Black student expulsions and work on a Black excellence plan as a community.

Anna Binder spoke about how the community has come together during the past year and has formed a community coalition and said their main goal is accountability. She said issues are not being resolved and they need help.

John Johnson agreed with a previous speaker and said integrity and trust cannot be taught. He disagreed with some of the discussions at this meeting and suggested the Trustees have those types of discussions in private.

Adjourn: 11:33 a.m.

Motion: Guzmán Second: Williams Vote: Unanimous